In the Specification

Please replace the descriptions of Figures 13 through 21 on pages 11 to 12 with the following marked-up descriptions of Figures 13 through 21:

Figure 13 is a block diagram of additional tables that are used in the signaling processor of Figure ~~12~~ 11.

Figure 14 is a table diagram of a trunk circuit table used in the signaling processor of Figure ~~13~~ 11.

Figure 15 is a table diagram of a trunk group table used in the signaling processor of Figure ~~13~~ 11.

Figure 16 is a table diagram of an exception circuit table used in the signaling processor of Figure ~~13~~ 11.

Figure 17 is a table diagram of an automated number index table used in the signaling processor of Figure ~~13~~ 11.

Figure 18 is a table diagram of a called number table used in the signaling processor of Figure ~~13~~ 11.

Figure 19 is a table diagram of a routing table used in the signaling processor of Figure ~~13~~ 11.

Figure 20 is a table diagram of a treatment table used in the signaling processor of Figure ~~13~~ 11.

Figure 21 is a table diagram of a message table used in the signaling processor of Figure ~~13~~ 11.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 21 and ending at page 17, line 5 with the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

Links are used to transport call signaling and control messages. The term "link" as used herein means a transmission media used to carry call signaling and control messages. For example, a link would carry call signaling or a device control message containing device instructions and data. A link can carry, for example, out-of-band signaling such as SS7, C7, ISDN, B-ISDN, GR-303, local area network (LAN), or data bus call signaling. A link can be, for example, an AAL5 data link, UDP/IP, ~~ethernet~~ Ethernet, or DS0 over T1. In addition, a link, as shown in the figures, can represent a single physical link or multiple links, such as one link or a combination of links of ISDN, SS7, TCP/IP, or some other data link. The term "control message" as used herein means a control or signaling message, a control or signaling instruction, or a control or signaling signal, whether proprietary or standardized, that conveys information from one point to another.

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 14-24 with the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

The processing system 102 may be configured to use a variety of compression methods or encryption methods. For example, Figure 4 illustrates a byte packing scheme for ADPCM compression. The standard transmission rate of a typical voiceband call is 64 kilo-bytes per second (~~k~~Kbp/s). Figure 4 illustrates coding schemes for four compression methods, including 40 ~~k~~Kbp/s for a 3/2 compression, 32 ~~k~~Kbp/s for a 2/1 compression, 24 ~~k~~Kbp/s for a 5/2 compression, and 16 ~~k~~Kbp/s for a 4/1 compression. In addition, Figure 4 illustrates, for each coding scheme, the respective number of bytes being compressed or decompressed, the cell pack or unpack delay, and the end-to-end delay due to packing and unpacking the cells. It will be appreciated that the compression methods illustrated in Figure 4 are examples, and that other compression methods using other compression coding schemes may be used.

Please replace the paragraph at page 41, lines 8-16 with the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

As discussed above, the ATM interworking unit 902 also handles calls in the opposite direction, that is, in the direction from the OC-M/STS-M interface 918 to the DS0 interface 912, including calls exiting from the DS1 interface 910, the DS3 interface 908, the OC-N/STS-N interface 906, and the ISDN/GR-303 interface 920. For this traffic, the VPI/VCI has been selected already and the traffic has been routed through the cross-connect (not shown). As a result, the AAL 916 only needs to identify the pre-assigned DS0 for the selected VPI/VCI. This can be accomplished through a look-up table. In alternative embodiments, the signaling processor 922 can provide this ~~DS0-VPI/VCI~~ DS0-VPI/VCI assignment through the control interface 904 to the AAL 916.

Please replace the paragraph at page 45, lines 10-15 with the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

B4

In addition to selecting connections, the CCM performs many other functions in the context of call processing. It not only can control routing and select the actual connections, but it also can validate callers, control echo ~~cancelers~~ cancellers, generate billing information, invoke intelligent network functions, access remote databases, manage traffic, and balance network loads. One skilled in the art will appreciate how the CCM described below can be adapted to operate in the above embodiments.

Please replace the paragraph at page 53, lines 11-18 with the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

B5

The table also contains the circuit identification code (CIC). The CIC identifies the circuit which is typically a DS0 or a VPI/VCI. Thus, the invention is capable of mapping the SS7 CICs to the ATM VPI/VCI. If the circuit is ATM, the virtual path (VP) and the virtual channel (VC) also can be used for identification. The group member number is a numeric code that is used for terminating circuit selection. The hardware identifier identifies the location of the hardware associated with the originating circuit. The echo ~~canceler~~ canceller (EC) identification (ID) entry identifies the echo ~~canceler~~ canceller for the originating circuit.